

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1261 (Delegates McClenahan and Donoghue)

Commerce and Government Matters

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**Motor Vehicle Administration - Digital Photographic Images - Private Detective Agencies**

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This bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to make a digital photographic image or signature of an individual, or the actual stored data thereof, available to private detective agencies licensed by the Secretary of State Police.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential increase in Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures of up to \$87,000 in FY 2001. Future years would reflect potential ongoing personnel costs. TTF revenues could increase depending upon the number of requests for digital images.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The MVA may make the information specified by the bill available to: (1) the courts; (2) criminal justice agencies; (3) driver license authorities; (4) the licensed individual; (5) the individual's attorney; (6) third parties designated by the individual; and (7) the Child Support Enforcement Administration.

**State Fiscal Effect:** There are approximately 24,000 requests for digital photographic images annually from currently authorized parties. The MVA has one image retrieval station that is fully utilized to accommodate current requests. There are approximately 550 private detective agencies licensed by the State Police. While it is unclear how many additional

requests would result from allowing private detective agencies access to digital images, any significant increase in volume would necessitate the purchase of an additional image retrieval workstation. A workstation costs approximately \$40,000. Further, an additional customer service representative would be required to process additional requests on a second workstation, at an average annual cost, including a salary, fringe benefits, and associated operating costs, of \$47,000. However, if the number of additional requests is minimal, it is assumed that the MVA could handle the increase with existing resources. A minimal increase in requests could instead result in a longer response time for the requested information.

The MVA charges a \$5 fee for an image retrieval. To the extent that requests for digital information increase, TTF revenues would increase.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2000  
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Analysis by: Jody J. Minnich

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510